

LITERARY NEWS and CRITICISM

Some Lurid Crimes of the French Revolution.

BLEUS, BLANCS ET ROUGES. Récits d'Histoire Révolutionnaire d'Après des Documents Inédits. Par G. Lenotre. Ouvrage illustré d'un portrait gravé par J. de la Tour et de sept dessins de Gérardin gravés sur bois par Deloche. 8vo, pp. xxiii, 288. Paris: Perrin et Cie.

M. Lenotre has been occupied for many years with the history of the French Revolution and has filled nearly a score of volumes with the fruits of his researches. In each new book that he publishes he brings forward really fresh material and treats it with the same inspiring touch. The truth is

followed him to the island of Jersey, and in due course his absence exposed his wife to the gravest peril. She was imprudent enough to give shelter to two priests, who, like so many of their fellows, could only exercise their holy functions in hiding. One of them secretly united in marriage, according to the rites of the Church, a couple of peasants who were not content with the non-religious wedding considered sufficient by the civic authorities. Whereupon a fanatical brother of the bridegroom, worming the truth out of him, forthwith denounced the fugitive churchmen, and Le Roux Cheffubois, by this time a merciless judge carry-

in the last of M. Lenotre's papers, "Auguste," there is something of tragedy. Auguste de Voynon, the son of one of Charette's well-born amans, is lost while temporarily out of his mother's care. Circumstances convince her that he has been killed, and when after a few years the child reappears, Mme. de Voynon refuses to recognize him, to the scandal of all her people. Her husband is brought to share her views, and presently the two go to court, seeking to rid themselves of a youth they regard as an intolerable incubus. The case drags on for years before it is decided in the favor of these unnatural parents.

As we have shown, the crimes and miseries of the Terror descended upon all manner of people, in all sorts of fantastic ways. But a single stern element runs through every one of M. Lenotre's pages, the element of a ruthlessness peculiar to the comparatively small number of officials charged with administering revolutionary "justice." Somewhere in this book the author confesses himself unable to say what it was that moved those heartless functionaries, whether mere cruelty and malice or a kind of madness. No one was safe from their petty vindictiveness and no one dared to dispute their will. Pity was itself a crime for the civilian. Only the soldier could grant himself "the audacity of compassion," and he had to be careful, walking warily under the eye of those "legal" personages whose orders he was set to execute. It was a soldier, General Marceau, who gave Angélique des Melliers the safe-conduct which should have preserved her life, and when she was robbed of it and guillotined it seems probable that her persecutors were hoping to strike at him for daring to show kindness to a child of the Vendée over her weak shoulders. Verily, the French lived in chaos while the Terror endured.

PLUTARCH

Professor Perrin's Third and Last Volume.

PLUTARCH'S NICIAS AND ALCEBIADES. Newly translated, with introduction and notes, by Bernardotte Perrin, Jamison Professor (emeritus) of Greek Literature and History in Yale University. 8vo, pp. xi, 335. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Twelve years have elapsed since Professor Perrin published the first of his projected four volumes of annotated translations from Plutarch's "Lives." That first volume, "Themistocles and Aristides," magnificently fulfilled its author's double purpose of bringing home to us the artistic and ethical quality of the great biographer, while at the same time presenting, through his work, material for a critical study of Greek history from the original sources. This first volume contained two essays, on "Plutarch the Biographer" and "Biography Before Plutarch," which make it almost binding upon the prospective owners of this third, and of the second volume, to place it by their side on the shelf. To be sure, each of the three volumes is complete in itself, but the trilogy taken together presents a complete survey of the fifth century B. C., the greatest of classic Greece.

The second volume, "Cimon and Pericles," appeared two years ago, with Professor Perrin's announcement that, if his eyesight was spared him, the third one, now issued, would follow in due course of time. The completion of the fourth volume, "Demosthenes and Alexander," he renounced then and there, with all the more regret because he had already far advanced in his preparatory work and the gathering of materials.

This series of translations, then, appeals alike to the lover of Greek literature and to the student of Greek history. The basic idea of the undertaking, that of substituting for Plutarch's Greek-Roman parallels, comparisons between Greek contemporaries closely associated in their periods, was a happy one.

Since the principle of paralleling a Greek with a Roman is acknowledged to be the least successful of Plutarch's contributions to biography, no apology is needed for comparing and contrasting in each of the volumes of this series two Greeks who were intimately associated with each other, and strong rivals of one another in a crucial period of their country's history. It is much more instructive, historically at least, to contrast such powerful rivals as Themistocles and Aristides, or Cimon and Pericles, than to force comparisons between Themistocles and Camillus, Aristides and Marcus Cato, Cimon and Lucius, or Pericles and Fabius Maximus; to contrast Nicias and Alcibiades, than to compare Nicias with Crassus, or Alcibiades with Coriolanus.

Professor Perrin's introductory chapter on the sources of Greek history during the Peloponnesian war delights one with such studies as that of Thucydides, with its analysis of that historian's successive manners, and its contrast between his work and that of Xenophon, who undertook to complete it after his death. The remarks on Aristophanes and old Athenian comedy are no less felicitous; in short, this is ripe scholarship, giving fullest value to the student. The translation seeks constantly to reproduce the spirit of Plutarch the biographer: "The easy and comfortable movements of his thought, his attitude toward men who are struggling with great problems of life and destiny, his amiable weaknesses as a judge of historical evidence, his relish for the personal anecdote and the *mot*, his disregard of the logic and chronology of events, his naive appropriation of the literary product of others, his consummate art in making deeds and words, whether authentic or not, portray a preconceived character—a more or less idealized character." Thus spoke Professor Perrin in the introduction to "Themistocles and Aristides," twelve

years ago. It is well worth while to repeat these words to-day, at the end of his task, so far as it has been given him to complete a work that is an honor to American scholarship.

MONTE CARLO

Where "Heaven Kisses Hell" Under Azure Skies.

MONACO AND MONTE CARLO. By Adolphe Smith. With eight reproductions in color from drawings by Charles Marceau Pearce, and with forty-eight illustrations in black and white. Large 8vo, pp. 47. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.

This sumptuous volume falls into two sections, the first one of which deals with the history of Monaco from the days of the Phœnicians, who called it the Port of Hercules and made it a way station on their voyages through the Straits of Gibraltar, down to our own day. The House of Grimaldi, from which is descended the present ruler of the principality, built a fortress there early in the thirteenth century, under the suzerainty of Genoa, and throughout the middle ages the little country had its share of intrigue and warfare by sea and land. Legends are told, the truth is sifted from fiction; in short, the author has thoroughly applied himself to the writing of what he himself declares to be the first general work on its subject, embracing not only past history, but also an account of present-day Monagasian economic, social and political conditions.

There is a tribute to the justly famous scientific attainments of the present ruler of the principality, especially in the field of oceanography, and also a statement of his services to international diplomacy, which from the author's account appear to be far greater than is generally known. It was, for instance, according to him, the Prince of Monaco to whom Emperor William confided the truth about the Dreyfus charges, and it was he who communicated them to President Faure most dramatically only a few hours before his death.

Monaco has been made into an earthly paradise by M. Blanc and his famous casino. It is he who brought prosperity to the little state, who enabled it to sanitize and beautify and adorn itself, and who showed how the foreigner could be made to pay the tax. Indeed, he is made to pay nearly all the taxes. M. Blanc looms in the author's eyes as a sort of misjudged genius of the business world, almost as a benefactor of humanity, with theories about the responsibilities of wealth. People must gamble, he says in substance, therefore let them; at least gamble under proper safeguards. No permanent residents of Monte Carlo are admitted to the gambling tables, and no foreigners who have not ample money to pay their share of the taxes—and of the revenues of "la Société Anonyme des Bains de Mer et du Cercle des Étrangers de Monaco." It is concerning this second section of the volume that one reserves his opinion, to put it as mildly as possible. The author analyzes the psychology of gambling, describes at length the facilities offered to it at Monte Carlo, and the restrictions placed upon it; he discusses large winnings, and ascribes large losses to man's inability to be content with small gains—which, by the way, is the very weakness on which M. Blanc built his expectations and realized his millions. As to the tragedies of Monaco, it is explained at length that a great many of these stories originate in blackmailing campaigns. Until gambling can be extirpated from human nature, Mr. Smith holds, it will be wisest to control it as it is controlled at Monte Carlo, and its suppression had better begin with the stock exchange and the turf. The theory is not new; in fact, it is quite familiar to us in this country.

The descriptions of the attractions which Monaco offers to the visitor aside from its casino—its famous theatre, its gardens, its beauties of land and sea and smiling sky—are excellent, and they are lavishly illustrated.

BURGLARY AS A FINE ART

The Life and Adventures of "Rat de Cave."

Paris, December 20.
"Les Mémoires d'un Rat de Cave," or the profession of pickpocket and burglar considered as a fine art, is by far and away the best and most delightful of the series of true Parisian bohemianism that has appeared for many a year. "Rat de cave," or "cellar rat"—the slang term for those long wax tapers wound on a spool which serve to explore wine vaults and dark closets—is the nickname for a juvenile vagabond, son of a professional burglar, who relates his experiences and exploits in the form of "confessions," which now and then are quite as philosophical as those of Jean Jacques Rousseau. The author, Maurice Dekobra, is a profound and subtle observer, and his quaint, dry humor imparts singular charm to his novel, which is dedicated to the memory of Mark Twain.

The flitting flashes of "cellar rat" cast vivid sidelights into many obscure nooks and corners of the Parisian life of to-day. The "hero" begins his career as a "city tramp"—something between a Gavroche and an "apache." He becomes a page boy in a smart all-night restaurant, performs his obligatory military service in a cavalry regiment, returns to Paris as pickpocket and burglar, undergoes a term of imprisonment, is stricken with remorse, reforms, is made city reporter on "The Twilight," tries his hand as dramatic critic, and at last, by exerting his natural wit and intelligence, attains comfortable retirement in his old age. His cozy little cottage, situated in a fragrant flower patch in the environs of Paris, like that imagined by Rousseau, painted white, but with neither roof nor green shutters, is entered by a young, inexperienced burglar, who receives a salutary lesson of morality from the experienced and venerable "Cellar Rat." This clever, humorous and essentially "human" novel is published by the Librairie Ambert, and is admirably illustrated with upward of fifty sketches by Saunier. C. I. B.

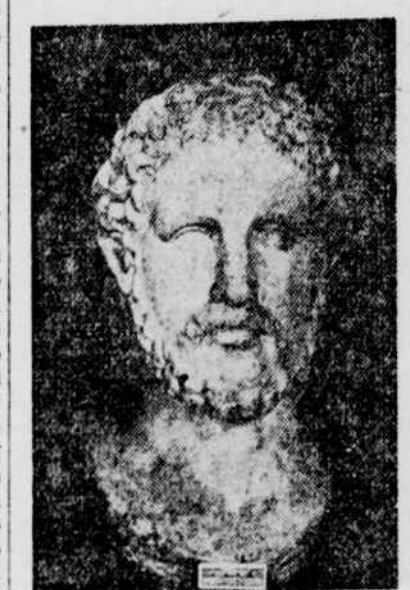
FICTION

New Novels by Mary Hallock Foote and Others.

OREGON'S PIONEERS. A PICKED COMPANY. A Novel. By Mary Hallock Foote. 12mo, pp. 416. Boston: The Houghton Mifflin Company.

This is a serious and meritorious American historical novel, not to be confounded with the "romances" of which we had a surfeit only a few years ago. It bears on every page evidence of serious preparation and understanding, not of events alone, but of the native spirit that brought them to pass, while yet it never degenerates from legitimate fiction into a mere disguised chronicle of facts. The settlement of Oregon in the 40's was furnished the author with her subject. She follows on the long trail a party of Calvinistic New Englanders, ruled by their Puritan pastor in the spirit of the Old Testament, but led by an adventurous of the opening West. And as he is the black sheep among the Chosen, so is the daughter of an English West Indian slaver the vessel of iniquity that brings upon them many sorrows and much shame. Her one follows on her downward career in the San Francisco of the gold rush to a marriage that comes too late to redeem her.

The story has many merits, not only of Puritan characterization in individuals and the aggregate, but also of dramatic incident and action. Mrs. Foote introduces Whitman, of course, but only incidentally in a meeting on the way. The great historical controversy over the purpose and the results of his famous winter trip to Washington lies not within the scope of her



THE SO-CALLED "ALCIBIADES" OF THE VATICAN. (From a photograph of the bust in "Plutarch's Nicias and Alcibiades.")

novel, which deserves the attention of all Americans who know and love the story of the growth of their country, and of the men and women who ventured ever further into the wilderness.

WASTE

THE ROYAL ROAD. Being the Story of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Edward Hankey, of London. By Alfred Oliviant. 12mo, pp. 270. Doubleday, Page & Co.

What makes this simple story so effective in the reading is its aloofness, its impersonality, which is that of the conditions with which it deals. Edward Hankey is a Cockney workman, who marries and is happy for a little while. Young, with sufficient strength for his trade, improvident in his pride of home and wife and child, earning good wages, with steady work, he gives no thought to the morrow that, with increasing years, brings diminishing earning capacity. In Hankey's case the tragedy of the old age of the poor is hastened by that curse of their heredity and environment, tuberculosis. It is not the work that grows too heavy for him, it is he who grows too weak for his work; this he sees plainly. And so the descent from comfort to indigence begins, step by step, its stations marked by the sign of the pawnshop, until at last the alternative confronting him is the river or the workhouse.

The story bears the stamp of direct study from life, a study conducted with sympathy and with a restrained indignation at things that be, whose solution lies as yet beyond our power, much searching for betterment notwithstanding. A tract of the times, this, and a gripping one also in its picture of the brave little wife and of the socialist physician, whose life, and his sister's, are given to a service that cannot be a cure.

LOVE AT FORTY.

THE MAN IN LONELY LAND. By Kate Langley Bosher. 12mo, pp. 182. Harper & Bros.

This is a mere novelette, whose scene is laid in this city and Virginia, and whose period is literally the present.



"CELLAR RAT" IN YOUTH. (From a drawing by Saunier.)

from Christmas to New Year. Mr. Winthrop Laine has been described as "an old man" to Miss Claudia Keith, from Essex County, Va., and the intelligence is perfectly true from the point of view of his niece, who is seven years old. In reality he is only forty, and Miss Keith—well, she is "going on" thirty. Mr. Laine is a lonely man, for the distractions of "society" have no savor for him. He has put all thoughts of marriage from him, and then—he meets his married sister's Southern

guest, at a moment when his only friend, his beloved dog, has gone the way of all flesh. It is all very easy sailing, or, to use the stock phrase of speech, the road of love is made smooth for him and her by the holiday shopping expeditions on which he accompanies her, by the spirit of the season, by their shared love of horses, and—by his niece Dorothea, the girl of seven with the disproportionate views on the subject of age. She is a precocious child in an altogether delightful and natural way. The story's chief merits lie in the genuine simplicity of its telling.

MORE SHORT STORIES.

THE FIRST HURDLE, AND OTHERS. By John Reed Scott. Frontispiece in color by James Montgomery Flagg. 12mo, pp. 205. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.

Mr. Scott is the author of a trio of lively tales of adventure. He now ventures for the first time into the field of the short story, and emerges with no enhancement of his reputation, if also with no particular harm to it. Gathered, one takes it, from the fugitive pages of a magazine, these eleven tales amply fulfilled their primary purpose of entertainment there. They hardly called for preservation in book form. They are mere episodes of love and adventure, covering a multitude of situations, but always without originality of invention in plot or in the delineation of character. They are but varied repetitions of stock subjects—of a misunderstanding of courtship, of stolen papers of state, of speculation and motor cars, and even of a triangle that never reached beyond the verge. We get an abundance of this sort of ephemeral fiction in the magazines, an endless supply that is no sooner read than it is forgotten. The mechanical ability to write this sort of thing has become common property, but only a few rise above the respectable average. Mr. Scott does not. His field seems to be the larger one of the romantic novel. He has done well in it before now, he will no doubt do well in it again. His briefer work lacks the spirit of his longer tales.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

Mr. Owen Wister is just now busy with a novel which is calculated to cause some excitement in Philadelphia and in other American cities as well. The book is a political study of Philadelphia.

Meredith's Puzzles.

Those who are baffled by the meaning of Meredith's verse will appreciate Laurence Austin's description of his struggles to grasp the poet's meaning. He says that when Meredith read to him from manuscript "The Empty Purse" he had not the faintest conception what it was about. He remembers a visit at Meredith's house, when he besought help from the poet's daughter in the interpretation of a sonnet by "Papa." Daughter and guest had to give it up, and when the poet came in and was appealed to he shed little if any more light on it, and ended by saying: "It means something like that." He once said to Austin, "No one values or admires lucidity more than I do," and he certainly could be lucid if he chose to be. Austin continues: "He had, it always seemed to me, two ways of writing, the natural and the Meredithian. Every time I went to see him he began by talking to me in Meredithese, probably because he had been writing it all morning. But, as I talked like the proverbial plain man, he soon did the same, without any detriment to the play of his mind and his illuminating treatment of whatever subject we touched on."

Petroglyphs and Pictographs.

The latest discoveries of primitive art in European caves have no doubt suggested to H. G. Spenning, of Queen's College, Oxford, the preparation of a book which is coming from the Putnam press. It is called "The Childhood of Art" and deals with the crude pictures and decorations left by paleolithic and neolithic man on rock walls, pottery, metal, etc.

Rider Haggard Again.

A new novel by Sir H. Rider Haggard is something to stir to pleasant anticipation the most fatigued reader of fiction. One from his pen is now in the press of Longmans, Green & Co. It is entitled "Child of Storm."

Statues to Authors.

The interesting fact is noted that statues to poets in Paris exceed in number those that have been raised to any other class of celebrities. There are fifty of them. Writers of prose come next to the number of forty-seven, and thirty-nine painters follow.

Not Work.

The writers of stories, long or short, who have been occupying for a decade past so large a share of public attention, may find more or less meaning in the story told of the little son of a popular novelist. He "was recently asked what work he was going to do when he was a man. 'Oh,' he replied, 'I'm not going to work at all.' 'Well, what are you going to do, then?' he was asked. 'What?' he repeated seriously. 'I'm just going to write stories, like daddy.'"

Byron in a Play.

A Belgian diplomat, the Comte A. du Bois, has written a four-act play the hero of which is Lord Byron. The real incidents in the poet's life have been used, the author's aim having been to paint his character. The heroine of the play is a fictitious Molly Blackwell. A correspondent of "The Pall Mall Gazette" says of the plot:

The first act shows Byron surrounded by a hunting party the Gothic hall of Newstead Abbey. Hobhouse and the Comte d'Orsay are there, his two intimate friends. Molly Blackwell, playmate of his youth, is about to marry Everard, a type of sporting squire, and Byron is furious out of piqued pride rather than any real sentiment for the girl. Edward mortally offends him by calling him "the lame man." One of the scenes represents the poet drinking from a skull, to the horror of a clergyman present. This French Byron is a morose creature, pushing pride to the point of ferocity. Molly Blackwell becomes his wife, thanks to the intrigue of Lady Lamb, who wishes to revenge the poet's neglect of herself by plotting his unhappiness in a marriage. Molly takes poison and dies;

she has been instigated thereto by the language of the poet, which she believes to be serious. Another incident represents the poet improvising a love ode to his dying wife.

Great National Library.

There is to be established in Leipzig, we are told, a library wherein will be collected the whole literature of the German Empire in German and in foreign languages issued from January 1, 1913. Those works begun before this year will be completed, so far as possible, by the addition of the parts issued earlier. Journals in the German language and pictorial representations, with or without writing, will be on file, music and daily papers being excluded.

The Hundred Best Books.

An excellent subject for debate is Mr. Pett Ridge's semi-humorous advice to schoolboys to "avoid the one hundred best books, because the probable result of reading those one hundred worst headaches." Continuing, he observed that Dickens, Scott and Thackeray were all gold and that nothing had done so much for the eradication of selfishness and the fostering of benevolence as Dickens's "Christmas Carol," which probably took two mornings to write.

American Slang.

The assertion of the Danish Professor Hanfard that "Americans are the Romans of the future and that they are the authors of a new tongue which will take the place of Britain's English" has stirred Englishmen into an unnecessarily mournful consideration of "United States English." One of them thinks that our slang words and phrases and our metaphors based on slang have developed so far that "the ordinary Englishman would find the headlines, at least, of most American papers unintelligible, whilst he would certainly be unable to read many of the ultra-modern humorous short stories without a glossary."

Stories by Anne Sedgwick.

A book of short stories by that very clever American novelist, Anne Douglas Sedgwick (Mrs. Basil de Selincourt) is to be one of the early publications of this year. It is to be issued by the Century Company.

Of Nogi.

Holt will publish in February Mr. Stanley Washburn's book about the late General Nogi, a warrior whose life and death were truly dramatic. Mr. Washburn was with the general during most of the war in which he so greatly distinguished himself. The book is to be entitled "Nogi: A Man Against the Background of a War."

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE.

COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE. By Frank Cousins. Introduction by Glenn Brown. P. A. I. A. Series L. Fifty Saloon Doors. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)

A collection of plates illustrating the types of doorways erected in Salem, Mass., in the period between 1745 and 1820. With descriptive notes and historical data.

THE OLD COLLEGES OF OXFORD.

Architectural History Illustrated and Described. By Aymer Vallance. (Oriel College, M. A. Folio, pp. xxiv, 184. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

EDUCATIONAL.

A TEXTBOOK IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. With Emphasis on School Practice as Related to Social Conditions. By Samuel Chester Parker. 12mo, pp. xiv, 505. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

A continuous, connected narrative of institutional developments.

OUTLINES OF EUROPEAN HISTORY.

Part II. From the Opening of the Eighteenth Century to the Present Day. By James Harvey Robinson and Charles A. Beard. 12mo, pp. ix, 355. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

Based on the authors' "Development of Modern Europe."

A SOURCE BOOK OF ANCIENT HISTORY.



"CELLAR RAT" IN OLD AGE. (From a drawing by Saunier.)

By George Willis Botford, Ph. D. and Lily Shaw Botford, 12mo, pp. 2, 864. (The Macmillan Company.)

Primarily intended to serve as an auxiliary to Botford's "History of the Ancient World."

ESSAYS.

CARDINAL MANNING: THE DECAY OF IDEALISM IN FRANCE. THE INSTITUTION OF FRANCE. Three Essays. By John Edgar Courtney Bodley. Corresponding Secretary of the Institute of France. With engraved portrait. 8vo, pp. xiv, 258. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

Founded upon three lectures given at the Royal Institution in 1911.

FICTION.

THE FORMER COUNTRY. A Romance of the French Revolution. By Anne Stede Sherman. French & Co.

THE MODERN HEIRLO. By Alfred Rubens. 12mo, pp. 366. (The G. W. Dillingham Company.)

Based upon the query, is marriage an absolutely irrevocable act, and if so, ought it to be?

POETIC TALES OF BREFRENY.

By R. H. H. 12mo, pp. viii, 196. (The Macmillan Company.)

Twenty-six stories of Irish folklore, some of the titles being "The Town of a Widow," "Nallagh's Child," "The Enchanting Harp," "The New Deck of Cards" and "The Lifting of a Child."

LITERATURE.

LITERARY INFLUENCES IN COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS, 1704-1750. By Elizabeth

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

HENRY VAN DYKE'S

THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY

A Book of Romance and Some Half-Told Tales.

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